

REMARKS

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed September 22, 2004. Claims 20, 21, and 29-35 have been canceled without disclaimer. Claims 36-43 have been added. 8 claims (1 independent and 7 dependent) remain pending in this Application. No new matter has been added. Applicants have authorized the fees required for the one-month extension of time be debited, however, should any additional fees be necessary (including any fees for extensions of time or additional claims), the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from Deposit Account 19-2814.

A. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 20 and 29, and the various dependent claims depending therefrom, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Examiner argues that the claim elements "key object classes" and "secondary object classes" are not clearly defined in the specification, and that partitioning by the "key object classes" is also indefinite.

Applicants traverse this rejection. A person of ordinary skill in the art would understand the meaning of these terms as used in the instant application. Nevertheless, the claims have been amended to present an alternative yet similarly clearly-defined claim set (claims 36-43). Applicants therefore respectfully request that the section 112 rejections be withdrawn as moot?

B. Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 20, 21, 29-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schein in view of Owens. This rejection is traversed. However, as claims 20, 21, and 29-35 have been cancelled without disclaimer, this rejection is rendered moot. Nevertheless, Applicants note that no combination of Schein or Owens would include each and every element as recited in the newly added claims 36-43.

C. Conclusion

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits a Notice of Allowance at the Examiner's

earliest convenience. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if such would advance prosecution of this Application in any way.

Dated this 23 day of DEC., 2004.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL RELATED
SERVICES, INC., assignee,

By



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